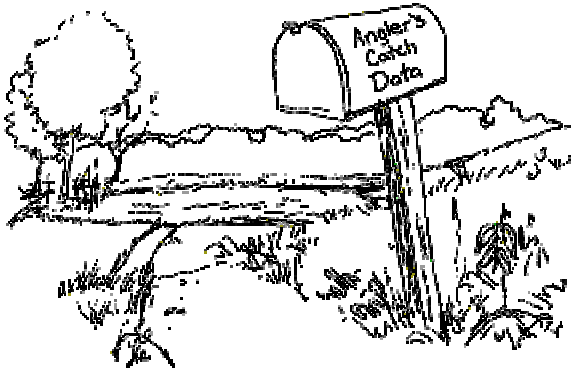


# Good Record Keeping Means Better Fishing

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For better fishing in your farm pond or lake, establish a good record-keeping system.

Anglers' catch data provides insight into the health and well-being of the fish community in a pond or lake.

Catch records can help lake owners or Conservation Department biologists diagnose problems and determine the best course of action to take in managing fish populations.

For example, knowledge about largemouth bass numbers, size and growth is helpful for managing a pond or lake, because

these important predator fish help control populations of other fish.

On the other hand, the numbers, size and condition of the sunfish caught provide valuable clues to the relative condition of the bass population and the fish population as a whole.

Records of the size and numbers of channel catfish caught from a lake or pond help determine the best stocking rates for continued fishing success.

## Keep It Simple

**Most anglers are more interested in fishing than in recording the size of fish caught, so collecting information must be made as easy as possible. The following suggestions should make this task relatively painless.**

**Select a spot along the most common angler path to the water and erect a waterproof container. A standard-size mailbox is relatively inexpensive and is easy to attach to a post and makes a good storage area for the rest of the materials needed.**

**A clipboard should be available for each angler who is fishing.**

**Purchase one to five standard-size clipboards and trim them to 7 1/2 inches wide. Attach a large snap swivel to each board with a short length of line. This allows anglers to attach the board to a belt loop or some other convenient place.**

**Attach a pencil to the board with a second, longer string.**

**A cheaper alternative to commercial clipboards would be to construct several boards from masonite or plywood with a hole drilled in the top center to attach a swivel and pencil. The diary sheets can be held in place with four binder clips.**

**A plastic stick-on ruler available from the Department should be placed across the opposite corners of the back of the board for measuring fish. USE CONVENIENT FORMS**

Fish diary sheets (see back) should be clipped onto the boards. Extras can be stacked in the mailbox.

It will normally take an angler 15-30 seconds to measure a fish and to record it with a hash mark in the appropriate column. All anglers should record all information requested on the data sheets.

It is important to know the total number of fish caught throughout the year and their size, so everyone must record their catch-no excuses. Anglers should be instructed to return the boards and completed trip sheets to the mailbox at the end of their trips. The forms can be collected later.

Please contact your local fisheries management office for help in interpreting data from diaries.

## DAILY FISHING REPORT

### Directions

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Landowner \_\_\_\_\_

Please record information about each fish caught, including species, fishing method and length by making a hash mark in the appropriate box. **Circle the hash mark of each fish you keep.** Please fill in all blanks at the top of the sheet. This information is vital for interpreting your angling results. A separate sheet should be kept by each angler. Return all materials to box at end of each trip.

Circle the number which best represents your fishing ability.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
beginner →→→→→ expert

Start Time \_\_\_\_\_

End time \_\_\_\_\_

	Species	Bass		Bluegill		Green	Channel	Other
	Method	Bait	Artificial	Bait	Artificial	Sunfish	Catfish	Fish
LENGTH IN INCHES	4.0 - 4.4							
	4.5 - 4.9							
	5.0 - 5.4							
	5.5 - 5.9							
	6.0 - 6.4							
	6.5 - 6.9							
	7.0 - 7.4							
	7.5 - 7.9							
	8.0 - 8.4							
	8.5 - 8.9							
	9.0 - 9.4							
	9.5 - 9.9							
	10.0 - 10.4							
	10.5 - 10.9							
	11.0 - 11.4							
	11.5 - 11.9							
	12.0 - 12.4							
	12.5 - 12.9							
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	18.5 - 18.9							
	19.0 - 19.9							
	20.0 - 20.4							
	20.5 - 20.9							